

The Crystal Ball - July 11 Releases

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Thursday, July 10 2008 7:00 PM -

After the big bang start of the summer with "Iron Man", we had seen nothing but a string of films that ranked anywhere from "good-but-not-great" to Spergeon Wynn territory. However, Mitch says we are in the middle of the best period he's seen since the Oscar hopefuls came out last winter with "WALL-E" out now, and in the next seven days we have "Hellboy II" and "The Dark Knight". Mitch brings us up to speed on all the latest theater and DVD releases in this week's Crystal Ball.



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News and Rumors

~ A "Sopranos" movie? That's the big rumor going around. Supposedly some reports leaked that creator David Chase is in talks with James Gandolfini about reprising his role of mob boss Tony. Guess that would answer those "Did he or didn't he get whacked at the end of the last episode?" questions. 2010 has been mentioned as the most likely release date IF it comes off. We'll

definitely be keeping our ears to the ground about this one.

~ Robert De Niro is wanting to make TWO sequels to "The Good Shepherd"? One would follow the character of Edward Wilson, played by Matt Damon, from 1961 to 1989, and the second would focus on Wilson to the present day. I'm not sure that this was a good enough movie to merit one sequel, let alone two.

~ Here is what may be a first: a NON-sequel blurb. Don't hold your breath for a sequel of "The Incredible Hulk", either with or without Edward Norton. Just like the bad Ang Lee version five years ago, this one has under performed as well, prompting movie executives to think that maybe the franchise has run its course.

~ [Last month](#) I mentioned that Guy Ritchie was looking to reboot the Sherlock Holmes franchise, a la "Casino Royale". This was before the announced Sherlock comedy with Sacha Baron Cohen and Will Ferrell. Color Ritchie unconcerned about competition, as he now has his Holmes. Robert Downey Jr will be playing the famed sleuth.

~ It looks like my prediction of "The Dark Knight" being the #1 hit at the box office will be coming true; at least based upon this news. With so many of the midnight showings for next Thursday night/Friday morning being sold out, many theaters are adding shows at 3 AM and 6 AM.

This week's new movie releases:

Hellboy II: The Golden Army

Starring: Ron Perlman, Selma Blair, Doug Jones

Plot: The Big Red spawn of Satan is back to kicking ass, this time trying to stop a merciless dictator from the underworld from overrunning the Earth

[View Trailer](#)

The BeerBuzz: Guillermo del Toro is lately one of the hottest and most respected directors around. When he made the first "Hellboy", no one knew who he was. Now? This movie is going to make twice as much as the original. I'll let you know my opinion later this weekend.

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Journey to the Center of the Earth in 3D

Starring: Brendan Fraser, Josh Hutcherson

Plot: A geologist on a special mission with his nephew discovers the entrance into a previously unseen world.

[View Trailer](#)

The BeerBuzz: Very much a family movie, one that is getting relatively decent early reviews...although it is being described more as an amusement park ride rather than a film. Definitely make sure if you go to see it that you go to one of the theaters showing it in 3D, which is said to be fantastic.

My Estimated Rating: Bill Nelsen (2 ½ footballs).

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Meet Dave

Starring: Eddie Murphy...co-starring Eddie Murphy's Paul Bunyan sized ego.

Plot: A bunch of tiny aliens in a spaceship in the form of washed up jerk Eddie Murphy lands on Earth and proceeds to bore humans to death.

[View Trailer](#)

The BeerBuzz: Offensive without even the guilty laughs of "Norbit". The last time Eddie did outer space, it was the mega-bomb "The Adventures of Pluto Nash", a film that cost over \$50 million to make and grossed \$4 million. This may not bomb that much, but it's still going to bomb. What the hell was a very good actress like Elizabeth Banks thinking when she signed on for this?

My Estimated Rating: Spergeon Wynn (zero footballs).

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New DVD Releases for Tuesday, July 15th

The Bank Job - This one jumps straight to the top of my Netflix Queue. Don't be misled by the fact that it stars Jason Statham, who usually just does action flicks. This film about an attempted heist that is more than what the perps bargained for is a very brainy caper movie.

Penelope - Christina Ricci playing a princess with a pig's nose who is waiting for her prince charming to break the spell. Can't blamer her...I'd be wearing a disguise like a pig's nose myself if I were involved in the piece of trash called "Speed Racer";.

Shutter - Another lame horror flick; this one starring two unknown actors (read: works cheap) in a tale about ghostly images in photographs they develop after a tragic accident. Gore ensues!

Step Up 2 the Streets - More geeky white kids thinking they look cool by doing street dancing. They don't.

Calendar Watch

Next week; [*The Dark Knight*](#), [*Mamma Mia!*](#), *Space Chimps*

Upcoming Biggies (click on the hyperlink to view the available trailers).

[*X-Files 2: I Want to Believe*](#) - July 25th - I want to believe this won't be as lame as the first X-Files movie. We'll see

[*Tropic Thunder*](#) - August 15th - A group of actors shooting a big budget war movie are forced to become the soldiers they are portraying in the film. Stars Ben Stiller, Jack Black, and Robert Downey Jr, playing a white actor donning black make-up to "fit the part";.

[Star Wars: the Clone Wars](#) - August 15th

- First ever animated Star Wars project from Lucasfilm Animation.

[Righteous Kill](#) - September 12th - Robert De Niro and Al Pacino together again as NY detectives working on a case that may be related to both a serial killer and a man they might have wrongly imprisoned years before.

[Burn After Reading](#) - September

12th - The latest Coen Brothers' movie, with Brad Pitt joining Frances McDormand, George Clooney, Tilda Swinton and John Malkovich in a dark comedy about missing memoirs of a CIA agent.

[Eagle Eye](#) - September 26th - Shia LaBeouf and Michelle Monaghan as a slacker and a single mother who become unwitting members of a terrorist cell plotting a political

assassination.

[Miracle at St. Anna](#) -

September 26

th

- Spike Lee's tale of a a
battalion of black American
soldiers who became trapped
in a Tuscan village during
WWII.

Body of Lies - October 10th -
Russell Crowe and Leonardo
DiCaprio in Ridley Scott's
spy tale of intrigue in the
Middle East.

Max Payne - October 17th -
Mark Wahlberg stars in the
adaptation of the video
game about a DEA agent
out to avenge the deaths of

his family.

Pride and Glory - October
24th -

Edward Norton and Colin Farrell in a story about a family of prominent NYC cops who are shaken to their core when a scandal is uncovered.

RocknRolla - October 31^s

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- Guy Ritchie hopefully back in form for another tale of London gangsters.

Gerard Butler, Thandie Newton, Tom Wilkenson, and Jeremy Friggin' Piven star.

Quantum of Solace - November 13 th

- The next James Bond film, picking up shortly after the events ending "Casino Royale";

Australia - November 14th - Baz

Luhrmann's epic tale set in WWII Australia. With Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman. Think "Gone with the Wind" with kangaroos.

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince -

November 21

st

- The sixth of J.K. Rowling's seven books, setting the stage for the two part conclusion in 2010 and 2011.

The Road - November 28 th

- Viggo Mortensen as a man walking with his son for months across a ravaged, post-apocalyptic landscape in search of civilization.

Charlize Theron
co-stars.

The Day the Earth

Stood Still -

December 12

th

- Keanu Reeves in a

remake of the
classic 1951 sci-fi
film.

Defiance -

December 19
th

- Daniel Craig and Live Schreiber as Jewish brothers in WWII Russian, leading a band of refugees in striking back at the Germans. A major early Oscar

contender

Revolutionary

Road - December

19th -

Leonardo DiCaprio
and Kate Winslet

as a young couple
raising a family in a
Connecticut suburb
during the mid
1950s. Sam
Mendes
("American
Beauty")
directs the

"Titanic"
; stars in their
on-screen reunion.

The Spirit -
December 25
th

- Frank Miller's
next comic book
adaptation, done
in the same style
as "Sin
City".

**Blockbusters on
the Distant
Horizon (movies
that would seem
to be big hits...as
soon as they get
made or
released).**

Watchmen - March 6, 2009 - The screen version of what is arguably graphic novelist Alan Moore's greatest work.

*X-Men Origins:
Wolverine* - May
1, 2009 - Hugh
Jackman goes it
alone as the
adamentium
enhanced
anti-hero. With

Live Schreiber as
Sabertooth, and
Ryan Reynolds
as Deadpool.

Star Trek - May 8,

2009 - J.J.
Abrams and a
young cast reboot
the franchise,
going back to Kirk
and Spock's days
at Starfleet
Academy.

*Angels and
Demons* - May
15, 2009 - Tom
Hanks and Ron
Howard follow-up
to "The
DaVinci
Code";

Terminator 4 - May 22, 2009 -
Christian Bale as John Conner as the franchise moves into the apocalyptic future.

Transformers 2 -
June 26, 2009 -
The next chapter
of Robots In
Disguise!

Public Enemy - July 1, 2009 -
Johnny Depp as John Dillinger.
Co-starring Christian Bale,
and directed by Michael Mann

The Taking of Pelham 123- August 7, 2009 - Denzel Washington, John Travolta, and James Gandolfini in a remake of the

classic 1974 film
about a hijacked
subway car.

Shutter Island - O
ctober, 2009 -

Martin Scorsese
working once
again with
Leonardo
DiCaprio in this
mystery set in
1954.

Nottingham - November, 2009 - Ridley Scot and Russell Crowe together again in a retelling of the Robin Hood legend, this time

through the eyes
of the Sheriff of
Nottingham
(Crowe). With
Sienna Miller as
Maid Marion.

Avatar - December
18, 2009 -

James Cameron's
sci-fi/CGI
extravaganza.

The C.I.A. should
take lessons
about secrecy

from Cameron, as he's keeping info about this film very much to himself at this time.

Iron Man 2 - May, 2010 - Right on the heels of the success of the first one, Marvel is quick to get Robert Downey Jr. back into his

titanium suit.

*The Chronicles of
Narnia: The
Voyage of the
Dawn Treader -*

May, 2010 - The series goes off in a bit of a different direction, as those of you who love the books already know.

Thor - June 2010
- Another Marvel
superhero...but
the Nordic God is
about as bland
personality-wise
as Superman, so
we'll see how it

goes.

*Harry Potter and
the Deathly
Hallows: Part I -
2010 - The start*

of the End for the
boy wizard and
his battle against
He-Who-Shall-not
-Be-Named

Lincoln - 2010 -
Steven Spielberg
directs the
biographical film
of the 16
th

President (Liam
Neeson)

The Hobbit -
2010 - Guillermo
del Toro directs
and Peter
Jackson will
produce the
prequel to
"Lord of the

Rings". Ian
McKellen will
return as Gandalf

Fantastic Voyage

- 2010 - Roland
Emmerich
("The Day
After
Tomorrow"
"10,000
B.C.")
remakes the

classic 1967
movie about a
miniaturized sub
and crew
operating on a
scientist from
inside his brain.

The Avengers -
2011 - Iron Man,
Hulk, Thor, and
Captain America
open up a can of
whoopass on bad
guys everywhere.

*Harry Potter and
the Deathly
Hallows: Part II* -
2011 - The end
of the line for
what will be
beyond doubt the
most profitable

series in the
history of film
making.

The Hobbit 2 -
2011 - del Toro

and Jackson
again, this time
covering the time
between the end
of Tolkien's book,
"The
Hobbit" and
the start of

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LOTR.